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Programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Tammam **Sulaiman** (Syrian Arab Republic)

I. Introduction

1. The previous recommendations made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 113 appear in the reports of the Committee contained in documents A/53/485 and Add.1–2.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the question of East Timor at its 60th meeting, on 24 May 1999. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the question are reflected in the relevant summary record (A/C.5/53/SR.60).

3. In addition to the documents listed in documents A/53/485 and Add.2, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the question of East Timor (A/C.5/53/61) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/53/7/Add.13).

II. Consideration of an oral draft decision proposed by the Chairman

4. At the 60th meeting, on 24 May, the Chairman orally proposed a draft decision on the question of East Timor.

5. Following a statement by the representative of Cuba, the Chairman revised the draft decision (see A/C.5/53/SR.60).

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the revised draft decision without a vote (see para. 7).

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III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

7. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Question of East Timor

The General Assembly:

(a) Authorizes the Secretary-General to enter into commitment up to 35 million dollars, from all sources of funds, for the initial requirements of the United Nations activities related to East Timor, pending further action by the Security Council and the submission of a revised budget by the Secretary-General;

(b) Reaffirms, in accordance with its resolution 45/248 B, section VI, of 21 December 1990, that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, and expresses its concern at the tendency of its substantive Committees and other intergovernmental bodies to involve themselves in administrative and budgetary matters.